

Message Text

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LIMDIS

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

THAILAND

AMB. WHITEHOUSE DEPARTS THAILAND (SECRET)

AMB. WHITEHOUSE PAID SEPARATE FAREWELL CALLS ON THE KING
AND PM KRIANGSAK LAST WEEK. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE RELATED
TO CURRENT TOPICAL ISSUES INCLUDING THE US-ASEAN MEETING,
INSURGENCIES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.
THE PM AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR INCREASED FMS CREDITS.
THE KING NOTED DRILY THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD BOASTED FOUR
YEARS AGO THAT HE WOULD BE OVERTHROWN IN FIVE. THERE WAS
THUS ONE YEAR LEFT. THE AMB. ALSO INVITED THE PRINCESSES
OR CROWN PRINCE TO VISIT THE U.S. PRIVATELY WITH OUR
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FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE (THIS INVITATION WAS AUTHORIZED
BUT NOT DELIVERED DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP).
AMB. WHITEHOUSE WILL ARRIVE IN THE DEPT ON CONSULTATIONS
JULY 3.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION PREPARED (CONFIDENTIAL)

THAI CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND TEXT IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA). MUCH OF THE DRAFT IS IDENTICAL WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION OF 1974. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES REFLECT CONSCIOUS EFFORT A) TO IMPROVE PARTY DISCIPLINE, B) TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PARTIES, C) TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PASS MOTIONS OF NO CONFIDENCE IN CABINET BY REQUIRING ELECTED HOUSE OF REPS AND APPOINTIVE SENATE TO SIT JOINTLY, AND D) TO ELIMINATE REQUIREMENT FOR VOTE TO INVEST CABINET AFTER FORMATION. INTERESTINGLY, NEITHER THE NEW OR 1974 CONSTITUTIONS INDICATE HOW THE KING IS EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING THE PM AND CABINET. DURING THE "DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT" THE KING CALLED FIRST ON THE LEADER OF THE POLITICAL PARTY HAVING THE LARGEST MEMBERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF REPS. IF THIS PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY EMERGES AS THE LARGEST PARTY FROM THE GENERAL ELECTIONS, AS MOST OBSERVERS ANTICIPATE, THE LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD BE APPOINTED PM AND ASKED TO FORM A CABINET. THIS WOULD PUT PM KRIANGSAK, AT PRESENT WITHOUT A PARTY OR A POLITICAL BASE, OUT OF OFFICE, UNLESS HE CAN SOMEHOW ASSEMBLE A COALITION OF PARTIES OR MAKE OTHER POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

EMB. BANGKOK COMMENTS THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION RAISES
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NUMEROUS QUESTIONS OF POLICY AND THE PROCESS OF APPROVAL IS LIKELY TO BE A LENGTHY ONE. WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED, THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE WILL BE JOINED AND THE ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN IN FACT WILL HAVE BEGUN.

THAI POLICE SEIZE OPIUM EQUIVALENT OF OVER 1.5 METRIC TONS
(CONFIDENTIAL)

ACTING ON INFORMATION FROM HONG KONG NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OFFICIALS, THAI NATIONAL POLICE CULMINATED MONTH-LONG DEA-ASSISTED INVESTIGATION ON JUNE 16 BY RAIDING A RESTAURANT IN A DOCK AREA NEAR BANGKOK. THE SEIZURE OF VARIOUS OPIATES WAS THE LARGEST IN LOCAL MEMORY AND ALSO SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT WAS IN PART DESTINED FOR HONG KONG AND ULTIMATELY THE U.S.

MALAYSIA

POSSIBLE VISIT OF MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND PM TO
PRC (CONFIDENTIAL)

"AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" HAVE INDICATED THAT FON MIN

RITHAUDEEN WILL VISIT PEKING IN SEPTEMBER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A VISIT BY PM HUSSEIN. GOM OFFICIALS NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE STORY, BUT STATE THAT A PRC PROPOSAL FOR A SEPTEMBER VISIT MUST AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THE LEAK REGARDING THESE POSSIBLE VISITS SHOULD BE VIEWED OPPORTUNELY IN LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS AS THE POSSIBILITY HAS GREAT APPEAL TO THE MALAYSIAN CHINESE COMMUNITY AND THE UNCERTAINTY IS UNALARMING TO THE MALAYS.

TRILATERAL SUMMIT (AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE, AND MALAYSIA)
SCHEDULED IN KUALA LUMPUR (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE PMS OF AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA REPORTEDLY
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MET ON THE 18TH TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES SUCH AS COMMON FUND, PROTECTIONISM IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, COMMODITY STABILIZATION SCHEMES, AND THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. PM FRAZER MAY ALSO CONVEY JAMAICAN PM MANLEY'S PROPOSALS FOR ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SET UP AN ECONOMIC MINI-SUMMIT IN ORDER TO GAIN SINGAPOREAN AND MALAYSIAN SUPPORT FOR THE SCHEME. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPORTS OF WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

SINGAPORE

TRANSIT CAMP FOR REFUGEES ISSUE ARISES DURING VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN LEADER OF OPPOSITION TO SINGAPORE (LOU)

THE VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION LEADER WILLIAM HAYDEN RESULTED IN THE GOS ONCE AGAIN STATING THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT A REFUGEE TRANSIT FACILITY SUBJECT TO FAMILIAR GOS CONDITIONS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE ARE NOW OVER 600 REFUGEES IN SINGAPORE AWAITING ONWARD PROCESSING BY ACCEPTORS.

SINGAPORE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM (CONFIDENTIAL)

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY K.L. THE SRV AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA STATED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING THE SINGAPORE TRADE OFFICE IN HANOI ARE PROCEEDING AND THAT VIETNAMESE HAVE ALLOCATED SPACE FOR IT.

AMBASSADOR KNEIP (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

GOV. KNEIP INTENDS ARRIVE SINGAPORE ABOUT AUGUST 3 OR 4. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOS AMBASSADOR HERE, THE GOS HAS AGREED TO EXPEDITE HIS CREDENTIALS TO AUGUST 7 SO HE CAN
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ATTEND SINGAPORE NATIONAL DAY ACTIVITIES ON AUGUST 9.

INDONESIA

TITLE III - EXPLORATIONS CONTINUE (LOU)

AID DIRECTOR NIBLOCK AND AID/ASIA PROCEEDING WITH REFINEMENT OF THE MISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A \$50 MILLION TITLE III PROGRAM IN FY 1979. HOWEVER, STILL ONLY FOUR TITLE III PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE HAVE BEEN APPROVED, OR ARE IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF PREPARATION, AND ALL HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLICY CHANGE ELEMENTS. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO SECURE FIRM GUIDANCE ON THE KIND OF PROGRAM FOR INDONESIA THAT MIGHT HAVE STRONG INTERAGENCY SUPPORT. A FURTHER COMPLICATION FACTOR MAY BE THE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS OF BASIC FOOD AID POLICY IN AID-CHAIRLED DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE WHICH COULD DELAY DECISIONS ON INDIVIDUAL PL 480 PROGRAMS. WE APPRECIATE THE NECESSITY OF FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE GOI AND WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE AS SOON AS WE SEE TITLE III PROSPECTS MORE CLEARLY. VANCE

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